

1755

USK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



Riverside House

Usk
May 20th 1943

Gentlemen

In conformance with Circular 49/45 (Wales) I beg to present the Medical Officer of Health's Report for the year 1944.

From figures obtained by the courtesy of the local food office the the estimated population of Usk at the end of the year was 1544 made up as follows

	Adults	1258
5	18	181
Under 5		105
		<u>1544</u>

<u>Vital Statistics</u>			
<u>Live Births</u>	Totals	Males	Females
Legitimate	17	9	8
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil	Nil
<u>Still Births</u>			
	Nil	Nil	Nil

Birth Rate per 1000 — 1101

It is to be noted that the above birth rate is based upon figures for births which occurred in the registration district of Usk. It is probable that an equal number of babies were born to residents of the town in nursing homes outside the registration district of Usk. The calculated birth rate is therefore not a true index of the actual birth rate of the town and is not likely to be until a system of inward and outward transfer's similar to that which obtains for ascertaining the death rate is introduced.

<u>Deaths</u>	Total	Males	Females
	19	11	8

Death Rate per 1000 — 12.3

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age 1 (Cause — Prematurity)

The year was remarkable for the proportion of deaths occurring in the elderly. Half the deaths occurring in the town occurred in people over the age of 80 and the average age at death was 75.5 years.

Table of Causes of Death

Cause.	Total	Males	Females
Heart Disease.	9	6	3
Cerebral Haem etc	5	3	2
Respiratory Disease	I	Nil	I
Urinary Disease	I	Nil	Nil
Blood Disease	I	Nil	I
Pulmonary Tubercle	I	Nil	I
Cancer	Nil	Nil	Nil

Infectious Disease

The incidence of infectious disease was very slight during the year. Two cases of measles and one case of malaria (ex - service man) were reported. No patient suffering from an infectious disease was transferred to an isolation hospital.

Tuberculosis

Two new cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year. The thanks of the town are due to the Welsh National Memorial Association for the examination of those residents of the town referred to them for radiological examination. These services are rendered free of charge. Eleven cases of Tuberculosis were resident in the town at the end of the year.

Pulmonary T B

Non-Pulmonary T B

Males	6	Nil
Females	4	I
Total	<u>10</u>	<u>I</u>

Diphtheria Immunisation

The protection of school children and infants against Diphtheria by the use of immunising material (Alum Precipitated Toxin) supplied by the Emergency Public Health Laboratories Cardiff, was pursued with vigour during the year. Each school was visited during the year after preliminary notice had been given and advertisements were inserted in the local magazine advising the residents of the facilities which were available. At the end of the year it was estimated that a total of 240 children under the age of 15 years had been immunised out of a possible total of 290. This gives a percentage of 83 which compares favourably with the rest of the country.

Water Supplies.

All the houses in the town have a piped water supply. The water supplied has no plumbic solvent action. Frequent bacteriological examinations of the water were made and on each occasion the water was found to be of a high degree of purity. A prolonged drought during the summer necessitated a restriction of supply during the last two weeks of August. This restriction coincided with the arrival in town of a large number of evacuated persons from London and some concern was felt at the inadequacy of sanitary flushing arrangements. However no ill effects occurred.

Sewage and Refuse Disposal.

No major defect occurred in the disposal of sewage during the year despite the known inadequacy of the system. A new sewage disposal system must receive high priority in the post war plans of the town. The dumping ground is situated well away from the town and has given rise to no nuisance.

Infestation.

A survey of rat infested premises was undertaken by the Sanitary Inspector during the year. Infestation was found to be slight with one exception - a provision merchants premises. Rat bait was provided to occupiers of premises found to be affected and traps were also set.

GENERAL.

The Public Health of the town has been consistently good throughout 1944 and no occurrence prejudicial to health has occurred to any degree. A large number of the town people have been employed at the near-by Royal Ordnance Factory and despite continually changing hours of employment on shift work, long hours of work and the dangerous nature of the work there has been no marked increase in the morbidity in the district.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J.C.H. Bird.

